**Education**

**Northeastern University**, 2016–2021

Ph.D. Candidate in English, Writing and Rhetoric, degree expected April 2021

Dissertation: “The Critical Fan Toolkit: Fanfiction Genres, Ideologies, and Pedagogies”

Dissertation Website: [www.criticalfantoolkit.org](http://www.criticalfantoolkit.org)

Committee: Mya Poe (Chair), Ellen Cushman, Neal Lerner, Laura Nelson

**St. John’s University**, 2010–2015

M.A. in English, 2015

B.A. with honors *summa cum* laude in English, Minor in Creative Writing, 2014

Honors: Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, Summa Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society

**ReSEARCH & TEACHING EMPHASIS**

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| * Digital Rhetoric and Communication * Fan Studies & New Media * Rhetorical Genre Studies * Coding and Data Rhetoric | * Digital Critical Pedagogy * Digital Humanities * Writing Analytics * Writing Program Administration |

**Digital Skills & proficiences**

**Programming**

Python (Pandas, NLTK, Plotly, Gensim, Matplotlib, Flask); HTML; CSS; XML (RelaxNG, TEI, XSLT); Git

**Digital Software**

GitHub, WordPress, Wix, Google Suite, Tableau, Microsoft Suite, Audacity (podcast editing software), Zotero, NVivo, Canva (open source design software), Openshot

**Research Methods**

Qualitative coding; interviews; computational text analysis; data analytics; writing analytics

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Peer Reviewed Articles**

Cara Marta Messina. “Tracing Fan Uptakes: Tagging, Language, and Ideological Practices in The Legend of Korra Fanfictions.” *The Journal of Writing Analytics*, vol 3, 2019.

Cara Marta Messina, Sarah Connell, Julia Flanders, Caroline Klibanoff, and Sarah Payne. “Social Knowledge Creation in the Digital Humanities: Case Studies.” *Social Knowledge Creation,* Vol 2. In press.

Cara Marta Messina and Neal Lerner “Mixed Methods Research in Writing Centers”. *Theories and Methods of Writing Center Studies*, 2019, 208–218.

**Special Issue Editor**

Alanna Prince, Cara Marta Messina, and Izetta Autumn Mobley. “Black Studies In/For the Rising DH Generation.” *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. In progress.

**Book Reviews**

Cara Marta Messina. “These Violent Delights: A Review of Timothy J. Welsh’s *Mixed Realism: Videogames and the Violence of Fiction.*” *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, vol 13.4, 2019.

Harry Denny, Cara Messina**,** and Michael Reich. “Embracing the Challenges of Conventional Practices, Program Inquiry, and New Media in Writing Center Theory and Research.” *Composition Studies*, vol 43.2, 2015.

**Other Publications**

Cara Marta Messina. “Op-ed: Who is responsible for a COVID-19 outbreak at Northeastern?” *Huntington News*, August 30, 2020.

Mandy Olejnik and Cara Marta Messina. “On the Front Lines: Graduate Student Roles in Shaping Discourse in Digital Spaces.” *Xchanges*. issue 15.1, 2020.

Members of the WPA-L Reimagining Working Group and nextGEN. “Where We Are: Dialogue and Disciplinary Space.” *Composition Studies*, vol 47.2, 2019, 203–210.

**AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kairos Teaching Award. *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy* | 2019 |
| College of Social Sciences and Humanities Teaching Award Nominee. *Northeastern University* | 2019 |
| Student Organization Leader of the Year Nominee. *Northeastern University Student Life Award* | 2019 |
| Graduate Essay Contest Winner for Writing and Rhetoric. *Northeastern University English Department* | 2018 & 2019 |
| College of Social Sciences and Humanities Scholar Fellowship. *CSSH at Northeastern University* | 2016-2021 |
| Stipend Graduate Assistantship. *Northeastern University English Department,* 2016-2021 | 2016-2021 |
| Graduate Fellowship. *St. John’s University English Department* | 2014-2015 |
| NEWCA Connors Memorial Scholarship Award. *Northeast Writing Center Association* | 2013 |

**Grants**

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| CCCCs Research Grant. “Super-Diversity in Context: A Corpus-Based Study of Multilingual Writing Outcomes with Attention to Disparate Impact.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication.* | 2019-2020 |
| NULab Seedling Grant. “The Critical Fan Toolkit*.” NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*, Northeastern University. | 2020 |
| Travel Grant. *NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*, Northeastern University. | 2019 |
| Registration and Grub Grant. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference*. | 2014 |

**UNIVERSITY TEACHING**

**Northeastern University**, English Department:

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| --- | --- |
| ENGL 2850: Writing in/for Social Media (online course) | Summer 2020 |
| ENGW 1111: First Year Writing | 2017-2018 |
| ENGW 3315: Advanced Writing in the Discipline | Summer 2018 |

**St. John’s University**, First Year Writing Program

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| ENG 1000: First Year Writing | 2015-2016 |

**Workshops**

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| **Creator and Leader.** Introduction to GitHub Workshop, Northeastern University | 2018 & 2019 |
| **Teaching Assistant**. Introduction to Python Workshop, Northeastern University. | 2019 |
| **Co-Creator and Leader.** Women Writers’ Vector Toolkit Workshop, Northeastern University. Co-led with Molly Nebiolo | 2018 |

**DIGITAL PROFICIENCY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

The Digital Integration Teaching Initiative (DITI) is a new initiative from Northeastern University’s College of Social Sciences and Humanities. DITI collaborates with faculty across the disciplines and developed curriculum to better integrate digital proficiencies. Digital proficiency modules which I co-created & co-led:

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| **Digital Proficiency** | **Description of Proficiency** |
| Data and Digital Ethics | Introduces concepts of big data, surveillance, algorithmic bias, and algorithmic justice through hands-on activities |
| Website Creation | Shares best practices and steps for building a website with content management systems such as WordPress. |
| Citation Management | Demonstrates the affordances and constraints of citation management tools and how these tools can be useful for research. |
| Data Collection, Analysis and Organization | Provides best practices for data analysis and organization with introductory tools such as Google Sheets and Excel as well as more advanced tools such as Python. |
| Text Analysis (Computational Text Analysis) | Demonstrates how to build a corpus (collection of texts) and analyze that corpus with introductory web-browser computational text analysis tools as well as more advanced tools such as Python. |
| Text Analysis (Qualitative Coding) | Introduce qualitative coding as a research method for both empirical data, primary, and secondary sources; usually teaches NVivo, a software for text analysis and research projects. |
| Podcast Creation | Provides guide to creating a podcast: genre awareness, rhetorical choices, script creation, best practices for recording, media excerpts, and how to use Audacity. |

**academic administrative & Research POsitions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assistant Director**. Writing Program, Northeastern University | 2020-Present |
| **Assistant Director**. Digital Integration Teaching Initiative, Northeastern University. | 2019-2020 |
| **Research Associate**. Writing Program Committee Reflection Study, Northeastern University. | 2019-Present |
| **Coordinator**. NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks, Northeastern University. | 2018-2019 |
| **Pedagogy and Infrastructure Team Member**. Women Writers’ Vector Toolkit, Northeastern University. | 2018-2019 |
| **Research Associate**, Design for Diversity, Northeastern University | 2017-2018 |
| **Director of Research**, Writing Center, Northeastern University | 2016-2017 |
| **Research Assistant**, The Meaningful Writing Project, Anne Ellen Geller, St. John’s University | 2015 |

**TALKS, presentations, & conferences**

**Invited Talks**

“Ways of Reading.” Presented with Hillary Chute, Laura Green, and William Quinn. *Barrs Criticism Slam*, Northeastern University English Department, 2018.

“Reading as Writers: Marking up and Writing Fan Fiction in the Composition Classroom.” Presented with Matthew Hitchcock and Gary Goshgarian. *Barrs Criticism Slam*, Northeastern University, 2016.

“Queering Fanfiction: The Intersection of Imagination and Identity.” Gender and Sexuality Studies Club, Marymount Manhattan College, 2017. Received honorarium.

**Selected Conference Presentations**

“Critical Fan Pedagogy: Teaching Critical Digital Literacies with Fanfiction Data” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Spokane, WA. Forthcoming 2021.

“Fan Composing as Digital Activism: Transformative Representations of Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Fanfiction.” *Computers and Writing*. East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. Forthcoming 2020

“(mis)Representation in Large Corpus Analysis.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19

“Tracing Fan Uptakes with Computational Text Analysis.” *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. June 2019.

“Fans as Stakeholders: Legitimizing Fan Uptakes and Genres.” *International Conference on Writing Analytics*. University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL. January 2019.

“Incorporating XML in the First Year Writing Course: An Ongoing Case Study.” *UConn Conference on the Teaching of Writing*. University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. April 2018.

“The Spaces of Possibilities: Fan Communities, Representation, and the Writing Classroom.” *Conference on Community Writing*. Boulder, CO. October 2017.

“Fan Fiction Ecologies and the Writing Classroom.” *English Graduate Student Association Conference*. Northeastern University. Boston, MA. February 2017.

**Selected Roundtable Presentations**

“Designing Inclusive Information Systems: From Theory to Change.” Chair of roundtable discussion. *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. July 2019.

“Continuing the Conversation: Navigating Inclusivity and Vulnerability in Online Listservs and Digital Spaces.” Presenting with Ashanka Kumari, Emily LaPadura, Katelyn Lusher, Mandy Olejnik, and Kyllikki Rytov. *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. June 2019.

“Theory on the Ground: Building Writing Center Research Groups.” Presented with Abbie Levesque and Kyle Oddis. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. College of Holy Cross. Worcester, MA. March 2018.

“Process Over Product: Challenging Institutional Pressures and Discrimination Through Ongoing Consultant Training.” Lead Presenter, presented with Abbie Levesque, Zachary Shaw, and Matthew Hitchcock. *Northeastern Writing Center Association.* Pace University. Pleasantville, NY. April 2017

“Initial Impressions: How Heuristics Shape Writing Center Consultations.” Co-presented with Alison Perry, Mairead Carr, and Jack Wells. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. Centenary College. Hackettstown, NJ. April 2015.

“Creating a Freshman Writing Journal: A Collaboration Between a First-Year Writing Program and a Writing Center.” Co-presented with Derek Owens, Tom Philipose, Alison Perry, Anna Sicari, Tara Roeder, and Bailey Robertson. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference.* Orlando, FL. October 2014.

“Consulting with Gendered Bodies: An Inquiry into Gender Performance in Sessions and Interactions at the Writing Center.” Co-presented with Donya Nassar, Bailey Robertson, Alison Perry, and Anne Geller. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. Bryant University. Smithfield, RI. March 2014.

“The Writing Fellows Program: Modeling Partners for Change.” Lead Presenter, presented with Eleadah Clack, Alyssa-Rae Hug, Carolyn Wargula, and Anne Geller. *Northeast Writing Center Association.* University of New Hampshire. Durham, NH. April 2013.

**Posters**

“Critical Fan Toolkit: Building a Digital, Public Rhetoric and Composition Dissertation.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19

“Reimagining Romance: *The Legend of Korra* Critical Fandom Practices.” *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. July 2019.

“Positions and Power: How the Writing Center is Viewed in the Institution.” Co-created with Abbie Levesque, Siddharth Pannir, and Quisqueya Witbeck. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. College of Holy Cross. Worcester, MA. March 2018.

“Information and System Design for Diversity: Can We Do Better?” Co-created with Amanda Rust and Julia Flanders. *Digital Humanities*. Montreal, Canada. August 2017.

**Professional service**

**Academic Service**

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| **Founder and Chair**. Graduate Student Welfare Advocacy Group, Northeastern University | 2019-2020 |
| **Member.** Writing Program Administration Listserv Reimaging Working Group | 2019-2020 |
| **Organizer.** Feminist Coding Collective, Northeastern University | 2016-2020 |
| **President.** English Graduate Student Association, Northeastern University | 2018-2019 |
| **Reviewer**. *Digital Humanities Quarterly* | 2018-2019 |
| **Co-Editor & Website Creator**. *First Year Writing Journal*, St. John’s University | 2014 |
| **Editor-in-Chief**. *Sequoya Literary and Arts Magazine,* St. John’s University | 2013-2014 |
| **Secretary**. Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, St. John’s University | 2013-2014 |
| **Co-Creator**. Creative Writing Group, St. John’s University | 2011-2013 |

**Conference Organization**

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| **Lead Organizer**. English Graduate Student Association Graduate Conference, “Centering the Margins,” Northeastern University | 2019 |
| **Co-Organizer**. NULab Spring Conference, “Digital Storytelling,” Northeastern University. | 2018 |
| **Co-Organizer**. Climate Change/Crisis/Creativity Conference. Northeastern University. | 2018 |
| **Co-Organizer**. Design for Diversity Closing Forum, Northeastern University. | 2018 |
| **Co-Organizer**. Design for Diversity Opening Forum, Northeastern University | 2017 |

**Extracurricular Work**

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| **Notetaker**. “Shared Realities: A Workshop on Disability, Technology, and Inclusion.” Microsoft Research New England. | 2016 |
| **Tutor**. One Day One Goal, Northeastern University Writing Center | 2016 |

**Writing Center Experience**

* **Writing Center Consultant**, Northeastern University, 2016—2017
* **Writing Center Consultant**, Columbia University School of Social Work Writing Center, 2016
* **Writing Coach**, SUNY Empire State College Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies Academic Support, 2015–2016
* **Tutor and Facilitator**, Queensborough Community College Writing Center, 2014–2015
* **Writing Fellow**, St. John’s University Writing Across the Curriculum, 2013–2014
* **Writing Consultant**, St. John’s University Writing Center, 2011–2015